

Message Text

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ACTION SPM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AGR-20 AID-20

EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 OIC-04 SCI-06 CEQ-02

CU-05 HEW-08 SIL-01 LAB-06 NSF-04 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01

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P R 261912Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9890

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 3822

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, SPOP, UNWPC

SUBJECT: WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE- 11TH PLENARY SESSION -
AUGUST 26 - MORNING SESSION

1. SUMMARY - CONTINUATION OF GENERAL DEBATE, INCLUDING ITEM 7
ON "RECENT DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS". LIST OF
SPEAKERS INCLUDED JORDAN, SRI LANKA, HUNGARY, BRAZIL,
AFGHANISTAN, MAURITIUS, ECUADOR, MALI AND UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES. ALGERIA TOOK FLOOR AND MADE SHORT STATEMENT
ON PRG (SEE SEPTTEL). END SUMMARY

2. HUNGARY, AFGHANISTAN AND MALI TOOK NOTICE OF
ABSENCE OF PRG REPRESENTATIVES. AFHAN DELEGATE ALSO SAID THAT
REPRESENTATIVES OF GRUNK SHOULD BE INVITED IN THE FUTURE.

3. IN EAGERLY AWAITED COUNTRY STATEMENT, BRAZIL ACKNOWLEDGED
GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND THE MEANS
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REQUIRED BY FAMILIES OF LIMITED INCOME TO PLAN THEIR FAMILIES.

BOG BELIEVES IT ABLE TO ABSORB FORESEABLE INCREASE IN COUNTRY'S POPULATION AND DOES NOT THINK THAT BRAZIL'S POPULATION GROWTH AGGRAVATES "THE SO-CALLED OVER-POPULATION OF THE WORLD". BRAZIL INDICATED ITS READINESS TO SUPPORT PLAN OF ACTION AS SUBMITTED TO CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH IT IS BASED, IN BRAZIL'S VIEW, ON A NUMBER OF INADEQUATE AND INCORRECT PREMISES. IN PARTICULAR, BRAZIL TOOK ISSUE WITH ASSUMPTION THAT POPULATION IS BECOMING TOO LARGE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES. IN GOB'S VIEW, DEVELOPMENT IS HINDERED MOSTLY BY LACK DEMAND AND CONSEQUENT LOW PRICES FOR EXPORTS OF NATURAL RESOURCES. MORE SIGNIFICANT DETERMINANTS OF WELTH FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS THAN RESOURCES ARE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, CAPITAL ACCUMULATION, AND SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS.

IT MUST NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED, IN SPEAKER'S VIEW, THAT THERE WILL BE INDEFINITE CONTINUATION OF RELATIVELY SLOW DEVELOPMENT IN LDC'S. THE SPEAKER CRITICIZED DC WORLD, COMPOSED OF PROSPEROUS, INDEPENDENT STATES, FOR ADVOCATING POPULATION CONTROL AND DEPENDENCE IN POOR LDC'S. BRAZIL ALSO SPOKE AGAINST ASSUMING SCARCITY IN SUPPLY OF FOOD WITHOUT DISCUSSING RELATIVE PRICES OF PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN RELATION TO PRICES OF SECONDARY AND TERTIARY SECTORS. IT ALSO REMINDED THE CONFERENCE TO KEEP IN MIND THE WORK OF UN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM IN DISCUSSING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

4. JORDAN'S REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT PRESENCE OF REFUGEES MAKES POPULATION QUESTION A SENSITIVE ISSUE IN HIS COUNTRY. GOVERNMENT MUST STUDY PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES TOWARD FAMILY FORMATION BEFORE EMBARKING ON PROGRAM. A NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION WAS FORMED IN MARCH 1973 AND GOVERNMENT IS ON VERGE OF LAUNCHING A NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM.

JORDAN CALLED ON RICH COUNTRIES TO CONTRIBUTE GENEROUSLY TO UNFPA. IT ALSO URGED THIS CONFERENCE, WITHOUT MENTIONING NAMES, TO CONSIDER THE ISSUE OF DISPLACED PERSONS "DRIVEN AWAY AND NOT ALLOWED TO RETURN".

5. SRI LANKA BELIEVES FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM IS URGENT BUT CAN NO LONGER OPERATE IN ISOLATION FROM OTHER PROGRAMS. DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH SPOKE OF COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING RECENT SET BACK TO ECONOMIC PROGRESS DUE TO RISING ENERGY COSTS. MANY PROGRAMS, INCLUDING HEALTH

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NUTRITION, FAMILY PLANNING, HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY FUEL SHORTAGES. THE SPEAKER CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF WORLD FERTILIZER FUND. SHE PRAISED UNFPA AND EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE TO POPULATION PROGRAMS BUT URGED LDC'S TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN EXPERTS RATHER THAN RELY ON FOREIGN ADVISORS. SHE ALSO URGED FOR ENHANCING AND MAKING SECURE WOMEN'S POSITION AS MOTHERS BUT AT THE SAME TIME GIVING THEM OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

IN COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT.

6. HUNGARY BELIEVES THERE IS NO UNIFORM FORMULA AND NONE CAN BE SUGGESTED FOR SOLVING POPULATION PROBLEMS. FAMILY PLANNING CAN BE HELPFUL, PROVIDED IT FOLLOWS BASIC CHANGE IN SOCIAL-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS. MOST OF SPEECH DEVOTED TO DESCRIPTION OF HUNGARY'S DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS.

7. AFGHANISTAN, ACCORDING TO ITS REPRESENTATIVE, HAS BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT BUT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO UTILIZE. THEM THE GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO POPULARIZE CONCEPT OF CHAILDA SPACING IN THE INTEREST OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH, BUT IS ENCOUNTERING MANY DIFFICULTIES.

8. MAURITIUS BELIEVES THAT IF POPULATION GROWTH IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM, THERE SHOULD BE A GLOBAL APPROACH TO FOOD PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION. HE ATTRIBUTED SUCCESS OF HIS COUNTRY'S FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM TO HIGH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT; HIGH LITERACY RATE; SIDE USE OF COMMUNICATION MEDIA; AND ADEQUATE PROVISION OF BIRTH CONTROL SERVICES. HE CALLED FOR WIDE SUPPORT OF UNFPA.

9. ECUADOR'S STATEMENT WAS SURPRISINGLY MODERATE. GOE CREATED A CENTER FOR POPULATION ANALYSIS WHICH WILL ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN MAKING POLICY DECISIONS IN POPULATION FIELD. GOE IS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH INSTITUTING SOCIAL CHANGES FAVORING DEVELOPMENT: POPULATION FACTORS FORM PART OF THE WHOLE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. THE SPEAKER CRITICIZED IRRATIONAL CONSUMPTION PATTERNS IN DC'S. RESTATED ECUADOR'S CLAIM TO THE 200 MILE TERRITORIAL

LIMIT.

10. MALI SEEKS SOLUTION TO ITS PROBLEMS IN "SUSTAINED AND UNCLASSIFIED

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RESOLUTE" DEVELOPMENT. POPULATION GROWTH IS NOT "FATHER OF ALL EVIL". MALI IS FULLY AWARE OF DEMOGRAPHIC INERTIA AND HAS UNDERTAKEN STUDY OF ISSUES IN FERTILITY REDUCTION TO ENSURE READINESS WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR AN ACTIVE FAMILY PLANNING POLICY. GOE IS BEGINNING TO MODIFY LEGISLATION AFFECTING POPULATION TRENDS WISHING PARTICULARLY TO ERADICATE SCOURGE OF ABORTIONS. PARTICULAR EFFORTS ARE DEVOTED TO REDUCING MORTALITY LEVELS, SINCE MALI'S LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH IS ONLY 35 YEARS.

11. UAE DELEGATE CONDEMNED ALIEN ATTEMPTS TO "EXTERMINATE" ARAB PEOPLE BY EXILING THEM. TO AVOID OR SKIRT THIS ISSUE, IN HIS VIEW, WOULD RENDER CONFERENCE POINTLESS. BARNES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POPULATION, UNWPC, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUCHAR03822
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740235-0916
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740819/aaaaapuw.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SPM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <24 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE- 11TH PLENARY SESSION - AUGUST 26 - MORNING SESSION
TAGS: OCON, SPOP, VS, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005